GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4446
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
STRENGTHENING OF WILDLIFE LAWS
Jagannath Dr. M.;Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar;Solanki Shri Bhupendrasinh Prabhatsinh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to strengthen further the laws pertaining to wildlife;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a nodal agency to check wildlife crimes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating functions of the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A multi-disciplinary Bureau to check crimes related to wildlife and their derivatives is proposed to be set up under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(d) The Bureau with its headquarters at New Delhi shall perform following functions -

i. To gather and analyze intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to State and Regional Enforcement Agencies for swift action to apprehend the criminals.
ii. To act as a multi agency unit with full time officers from various organizations like Police, Customs and Forest.
iii. To implement the resolutions and decisions taken under various International Conventions such as Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), International Whaling Commission, etc., to which India is a party.
iv. To co-operate with the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group, the World Customs Organization, the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force and various other Law Enforcement Agencies inside the country.
v. To develop a National level Policy for containing the trade, enforcement and capacity building of the State Forest Departments to carry out enforcement and investigation in a professional manner.
vi. To establish an intelligence network all over the country for advance information and action by closely working with State Forest Departments, NGOs, etc.
vii. To monitor the trade and advise the Government of India on changes required in policy and legislation from time to time.